

01 MAY 2024



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Post 501 Leadership

Commander: Bob Dolan
Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer
Finance: Bob Wuggazer
Membership: Bruce Nettleton
Sergeant at Arms: Tim Crear
Chaplain: Mike Zerr

COMMANDER'S CORNER

From the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism, American veterans have made the Supreme Sacrifice, giving their life for our Country. They died so that we could continue to cherish the things we all love – God, Country, and family.

We will gather on Memorial Day... to honor the memory of these fallen warriors. They truly are the guardians of our freedom.

Membership Update:

As of today, we are stuck at 121 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 90.98%. We are just 12 renewals away from meeting this year's renewal goal. What is keeping you from renewing your membership? Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you make a decision to renew. As always you go to www.legion.org to renew your membership today.

On Memorial Day this year, I hope you will honor these special veterans by visiting Woodbury cemeteries and seeing the flags that American Legion Post 501 will be placing there to honor their Service.



Three Year American Legion Membership Option

Starting with 2025 membership renewals, National will be raising their portion of the dues to \$5 along with the MN Department and Third District with a \$3 and \$2 increase respectively. This has caused the Post to raise our dues to \$45 in 2025 and \$49 in 2026 membership years. If we keep our membership dues at the current \$39 the Post would be losing money.

To help members cope with the sudden increase in dues The American Legion National is currently offering members the ability to prepay for 3 years of membership (2025-2027) at the current 2024 rate (\$39). This will give you a reprieve from the higher dues for a few years. I have already done it for myself and it was quick and easy. You will need to go to the MN American Legion web site at mnlegion.org and click on the 3 Year Renewal button. You will then be prompted to put in your membership number and last name.

I urge all members that have already renewed their 2024 membership to take advantage of this deal. It will only last until 30 June 2024. After that the increased dues will take effect.

Woodbury Boys & Girls State Selections

This year's selections to Boys State are AFJROTC cadet Noah Wahlquist, from East Ridge High School and future West Pointer Cade Wright, from Woodbury High School. As you know Boys State is a practical learning experience in local and state government and is held on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota from 9-15 June.



For the first time our Post is sponsoring Eva Abbas, a junior at Woodbury High School, for Girls State. Girl's State is the companion program that is run by the American Legion Auxiliary and held at Bethel University over the same time frame. Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer worked with the St Paul Park Auxiliary to make this happen.



All of our selectees should have a wonderful experience and cannot wait to get their feedback at a future Post meeting.

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Poppy Days 2024



We are in full swing with our May Poppy Days (10-12 May) distribution with VFW Post 9024. The sites that we will be at this year are Cub Food, Jerry's, Walmart, Sam's Club, Total Wine, and Hy-Vee in Oakdale.

It is important that we have enough volunteers to cover all of these sites and time slots. If you have not contacted me for a volunteer slot, give me a call at 703-851-5416 or reply to this email.

TWIN CITIES AUTO SHOW

The Twin Cities Auto Show had its Military Appreciation Night on 2 April and for the second year in a row Post 501 was recognized at the Twin Cities Auto Show for its support to the community. We were one of five American Legion & VFW Posts throughout Minnesota to receive their Community Service Award. This is a tremendous honor and a recognition for all of the work that we do in Woodbury. **Congrats to Post 501!!!!**

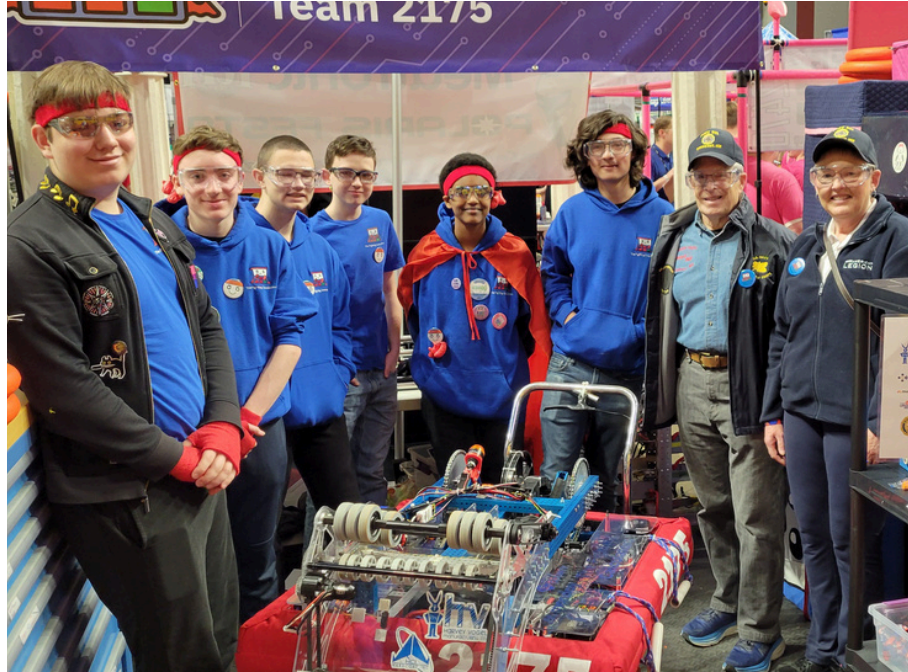


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Math & Science Academy (M&SA)
Robotics Competition

The FIRST Robotics Competition Team, The Fighting Calculators, from the Math & Science Academy in Woodbury had their first competition of the season at William Arena from 5-7 April. Post Commander Bob Dolan & Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer spent the morning of April 6 with the Math & Science Academy's robotic team at Williams Arena. It was great to see a bunch of students excited about tech and science.



At the end of the competition the team place 3rd and won the team spirit award. This was great fun and hopefully our Post can continue to sponsor this team in the coming years.

Memorial Day Event 2024

You are invited to honor service men and women at the Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, 27 May. This special service will begin at 11:00 am at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial on the City Hall campus. This year's keynote speaker is Minnesota State Representative Mark Wiens. Rep. Wiens served in the United States Army for 30 years, followed by the Minnesota National Guard, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This event is being hosted by the Woodbury V.F.W. Post 9024 & American Legion Post 501.



This Month in History - The Poppy Story

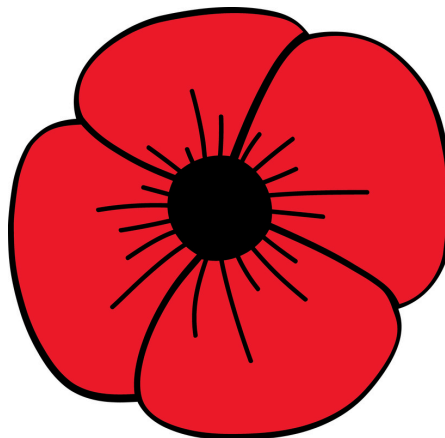
After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem “In Flanders Fields.” The poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

On May 28, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.



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Upcoming Events

- **7 May – AFJROTC Awards Ceremony:** Please join us at the annual AFJROTC awards ceremony at Woodbury High School in the Lecture Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **10-12 May – Poppy Days**
- **23 May – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s May meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 pm.
- **27 May – Memorial Day:** Join us for a Memorial Day program at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial. The event starts at 11am.
- **27 June – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s June meeting will be held at Birdi Golf (conference room) in the Valley Creek Mall at 6:30 pm.



This activity supports the U.S. military and its veterans; however, it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its branches.